



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Chattahoochee-Oconee
National Forests
Armuchee/Cohutta
Ranger District

3941 Highway 76
Chatsworth, GA 30705
(706) 695-6737

File Code: 1950

Date: February 10, 2005

Dear Forest User:

The Armuchee-Cohutta Ranger District will be considering a number of project proposals and conducting environmental analysis in the near future. Please review the following proposals and submit your comments so that they can be included in our analysis.

Hurricane Damage Restoration

The hurricane season of 2004 affected many parts of the Armuchee-Cohutta Ranger District. The following projects are proposed to restore these areas to prevent further environmental degradation and to continue the safe use of the forest.

Upper Jacks River Trail – Major flooding in the Upper Jacks River washed out parts of the trail and triggered some major landslides. There are numerous downed trees. Some sections of the trail are damaged to the extent that the trail cannot be reconstructed in the same location. This project proposes up to one-half mile of trail relocation which could cause the relocation of as many as three river crossings.

Mountaintown Creek Trail – Major flooding destroyed numerous trail crossings along Mountaintown Creek. Short sections of trail have been damaged. This project proposes the restoration of approximately 12 stream crossings. Short sections of trail will need restoration or possibly relocation.

Forest Service Road 51 – Major flooding caused damage to the road banks in three locations along FS 51 east of Cottonwood Campground. This project proposes to restore the road banks by placing rip-rap in the areas that were damaged.

Forest Service Road 64 – The principle damage along Forest Service Road 64 came from landslides. There are 2 large slides, within 100 yards of each other, which removed the entire road bank and a small portion of the road surface. The debris from the landslides joined together 300 feet below the road and was carried approximately another 2000 feet down slope. This project proposes to cut by bulldozer three terraces across the slide area. Rock will be used to build back and stabilize the road bank. Additionally, the downslope acres damaged by the landslide debris will be revegetated. There are five other smaller landslides that occurred along this road that damaged the road bank. These areas will be repaired by placing rock to reestablish the road bank and utilize terracing only where needed.

Forest Service Road 18 – Two areas along Holly Creek need the road bank restored. The first area located between the swimming hole and the Emery Trail Parking Area will utilize rip-rap to stabilize the soil movement on a steep slope. A second area upstream had a sizeable landslide that removed the entire road bank and a portion of the road surface. This project proposes to



reestablish the road bank by winching two downed trees onto the terrace adjacent to Holly Creek. The terrace and trees will be used to build a rock base that will form the road bank.

Forest Service Road 22 – This road follows Tumbling Creek which flows north into Tennessee. Major flooding caused extensive damage to Forest Service Road 22 and its road bank in numerous places. This project proposes to repair the road surface, repair drainages and reestablish the road banks with rip-rap.

Land Acquisition

The Armuchee-Cohutta Ranger District has acquired a number of important tracts of land in the past couple of years. Two of these tracts have some soil and water problems that need corrected to protect water quality.

Dodd Tract Soil and Water Project – This 108 acre tract of land was acquired in 2003 and includes a portion of Holly Creek and the Leadmine Branch drainage. The portion of this tract along Holly Creek receives heavy dispersed recreation use. There is an old road of approximately 900 feet that follows Holly Creek in a horse-shoe shape fashion. Along the road are five areas that are denuded and causing sedimentation in Holly Creek. At the point where Leadmine Branch enters Holly Creek there is a gate and a ford crossing Holly Creek. This project proposes to eliminate the old road along Holly Creek and revegetate all exposed soil in this heavily used area. There are two large mud holes that will be filled in and leveled. To provide for the parking needs of dispersed recreation users along Holly Creek, a 15 car parking lot will be built. The gate for the Holly Creek ford will be taken down. Approximately 400 feet of old road on the south side of Holly Creek will be revegetated.

Kohnagel Tract Soil and Water Project – This 234 acre tract of land was acquired in 2003 and includes a portion of Tails Creek on the eastern side of the tract. Also on this side is a 10 acre pasture enclosed by barb wire, a pond, an old corral and 2 access roads. This project proposes to remove the gate to the access road on the southeast side of this tract and replace with posts to prevent further vehicle access. All bare soil areas around this access point will be revegetated. The access road on the northeast side of this tract will be the primary vehicle access to the tract for management purposes. The existing gate at Tails Creek will be replaced with an approved Forest Service gate. The remaining gates and fences on this tract will be removed. All other access roads from private property will be closed to vehicle access. The corral will be torn down and removed. All bare soil will be revegetated. The pond will be used as a source of water for fire suppression and a helicopter concrete landing pad will be built in the pasture. This proposal also provides for public parking along Tails Creek Church Road.

Special Use Permit

Goose Island Road Proposal – The Forest Service has received an application to modify an existing special use permit which accesses a tract of private land completely surrounded by National Forest land. The existing special use permit grants a 20 foot ROW for a road accessing this private land. The applicant is seeking a 60 foot ROW to allow the road to be improved to

meet county road specifications. The Forest Service will be studying this proposal and gathering information on the resources that will be affected.

We are interested in your comments about these proposals and invite you to send site-specific written comments to us by February 25, 2005 at the Armuchee-Cohutta Ranger District office, or by email to mwmurphy@fs.fed.us. Thank you for your interest in the Chattahoochee National Forest.

Sincerely,

/s/Michael Murphy (for)
DEBRA L. WHITMAN
District Ranger